

and his wife Yvonne moved to the City of St. Clair Shores in 1964, where they raised six children and still reside today.

Mr. Wahby began his successful career in the financial services industry working at Comerica Bank, serving in numerous high-level capacities for 31 years. In addition to his accomplishments as a businessman, Mr. Wahby believes in giving back to the community and has devoted his immense talents to serving the public for the last 34 years. Since 1979 he has served as a school board member, city councilman, Mayor, and as County Treasurer from 1995 to present.

However, the main reason for this honor is for his strong leadership and advocacy for better health care. Mr. Wahby has been a charitable leader for over four decades. Through the years, he has strategically leveraged his business and political skills to make critical advances for very important causes. He has served as a member of McLaren Macomb's Hospital Board of Trustees since 2000 and has been chair of that board since 2002.

In 2001, almost 70 percent of cancer patients in Macomb County had to drive far from their home. McLaren Macomb saw the need for compassionate cancer care of the highest quality close to home and with the leadership of Ted Wahby, they decided to open a cancer center.

This mission of opening the center was very personal for Mr. Wahby, as he and his wife both lost family members to cancer. Those involved with the project felt profoundly that the generous amount of time and expertise Mr. Wahby gave was vital to its success. He was a tireless supporter and fund-raiser from the very beginning, and worked for many years to influence other local leaders to get behind the project and to invest in the capital campaign. The hospital was proud to name the facility the Ted B. Wahby Cancer Center, which opened its doors in 2004.

For his selfless efforts, Mr. Wahby has earned many accolades, including the 2005 Health Care Leadership Award from the Michigan Health & Hospital Association, and the 2005 Thanks for Giving Award, presented for extraordinary volunteer service to hospitals in the Metro Detroit area. For all of the numerous awards he has received, Mr. Wahby summed it up best when the cancer center opened, by stating that "his greatest reward will come when the center is operating and more people can access the quality care they need."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Ted Wahby. I thank him for his immeasurable contributions, and I am so pleased to join with the entire community in paying tribute to him.

#### INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF YOANI SÁNCHEZ, A COURAGEOUS BLOGGER AND ACTIVIST FOR FREEDOM IN CUBA

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution honoring Yoani Sánchez, a courageous blogger and activist for freedom in Cuba, for her ongoing efforts to challenge political, economic, and so-

cial oppression. She has become a prominent voice through social media for millions of Cubans who reject the oppression of the Castro regime, having said, "We Cubans don't deserve what we are living through. I think Cubans deserve to be citizens of the 21st century, in all senses, to test the challenges of modernity."

Yoani Maria Sánchez Cordero was born in Havana, Cuba on September 4, 1975, and went on to major in Spanish Literature at the Pedagogical Institute before completing a degree in Hispanic Philology at the University of Havana in 2000. While working at Editorial Gente Nueva, Sánchez came to the realization that, like many Cubans, the wages she earned legally were not enough to support her family and highly qualified individuals were unable to find sufficient work. Disenchanted and seeking greater economic opportunities, she moved to Switzerland in 2002 but returned to Cuba in the summer of 2004, discovering her passion for computer science.

In 2004, Sánchez and a group of like-minded compatriots founded *Consenso*, a magazine of reflection and debate, and three years later she worked as a web master, columnist, and editor for the website *Desde Cuba*. In April 2007, Sánchez created the blog known as "Generation Y," which started as an outlet for self-expression but has since found an audience with half a million people around the world. Through her weekly blog posts, tweets, and Facebook updates, made possible thanks to the donations of online supporters and Sánchez's unwavering persistence, she has provided an unfiltered glimpse into the realities of day-to-day life in Cuba.

The Castro regime branded Sánchez as a dissident and, since March 2008, blocked access to her blog from within Cuba, where mobile phones, flash drives, and used laptop computers have become lifelines of communication given economic and government barriers to the internet. Sánchez refused to be silenced and continued to write with the help of friends and volunteer collaborators abroad, who post her entries in solidarity and have translated *Generation Y* into 20 languages.

Sánchez attempted to travel outside of Cuba on 20 occasions, but was repeatedly denied the required exit visa. In January 2013, the Cuban government lifted travel restrictions for citizens and issued Sánchez a passport, allowing her to embark on an 80-day international tour, including Brazil, the Czech Republic, Spain, Mexico, and the United States, to share her experiences living under the Castro regime firsthand. On her first U.S. visit, she will meet with Members of Congress in Washington, D.C. Following her tour, Sánchez intends to return to Havana, where she lives with her husband Reinaldo and their 20-year-old son Teo, and dreams of starting an independent news outlet, saying, "Life has taught me that the wall comes tumbling down only when you push it."

Sánchez is the recipient of numerous honors and awards for her activism. In 2009, she became the first blogger to ever interview U.S. President Barack Obama, who applauded her efforts to "empower fellow Cubans to express themselves through the use of technology." She has also received the Ortega y Gasset Award for Digital Journalism in 2008, was named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World in the "Heroes and Pioneers" category for 2008, been award-

ed the Maria Moore Cabot Prize from Columbia University in 2009 for coverage of Latin America, and received the International Woman of Courage Award from then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, which honors Yoani Sánchez and commends individuals like her who have dedicated their lives to protecting and strengthening civil rights in the face of adversity. Despite violent attacks and protests from Castro supporters and leftists, she has vowed to never stop writing until the people of Cuba are able to express their views freely. I join Yoani Sánchez and her fellow activists in looking forward to the day when all Cubans can freely express themselves in public without fear of reprisal.

#### HONORING JACOB CONNER WILSON

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Conner Wilson. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 214, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jacob planned and constructed an additional walking trail in the Parkville Nature Sanctuary in Parkville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Conner Wilson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOSH FLEMING

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Josh Fleming for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.